

NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MONTHLY UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2003

PROGRESS MADE BY THE INSTITUTE STAFF AND PARTNERS THIS MONTH:

- Louise Hose (LH) and Lewis Land (LL) attended the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Seattle and presented posters. Dave Shaver and other members of the NPS-Geologic Resources Division attended and discussed the Institute with interested parties who visited their exhibit booth. The meeting included three karst-specific formal sessions and probably drew more karst geoscientists than any previous GSA conference. It provided an opportunity to discuss the Institute with colleagues from across the US plus Australia, Canada, France, and South Korea.
- GSA's membership renewal reminder e-newsletter, *GSA Connection*, featured a link to an article on NCKRI's recent *Vision Building Workshop* (<http://www.geosociety.org/MbrNews/0311/prNCKRI.htm>). New Mexico Tech also placed a prominent link to this website on their front homepage.
- Ed Kassman (NPS-GRD) helped write a briefing statement addressing the extraordinary challenges caused by the current interpretation of the matching fund provision in the Institute's enabling legislation. The document was sent to David Brooks of Senator Jeff Bingaman's staff, who had requested the briefing. Later in the month, Congressman Stevan Pearce's staffer Rhett Skiles also requested information on the matter and we also sent the briefing to him.
- Kassman also completed the writing of a proposed General Agreement between the National Park Service and the City of Carlsbad that will allow the NPS to pass to the City the \$1,956,900 appropriated by Congress for the NCKRI building. The NPS-WASO Contracting Office will shepherd it through the next phase of signatures.
- LH met with City representatives Jon Tully and Lorraine Allen and architects Beryl Durham and Ron Nims, who provided preliminary building plans for the Institute. Joe Galon of NMT and Ron Kerbo and Greg McDonald of the NPS-GRD, as well as other interested parties, reviewed the plans and provided comments and suggestions. LH and Roger Scott (RS) again met with Durham, Nims, and Allen to discuss the input and other building issues. The preliminary plans may be viewed at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri/news.htm>
- The Institute has agreed to coordinate and edit the *World Atlas of Karst and Karst Protection, Vol. 3, North America*, a planned publication of the IUCN - The World Conservation Union – World Commission on Protected Areas (<http://www.iucn.org/about/index.htm>) and LH has worked with the series editors this month.
- LH completed editing the December issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*. She is also working with the National Speleological Society to identify a new editor for the publication and begin transferring those responsibilities, which she has held for the last 8 years.
- Penny Boston (PB), Richard Cervantes, and Van Romero (all of New Mexico Tech) met with LH in Socorro to discuss NMT's potential role in the Institute's future and their continuing relationship with the National Park Service.

- LH and RS worked on developing a business/operational plan for the Institute.
- The summary of contributions made by participants in the Institute's October *Vision Building Workshop* were posted by Jim Wood (NPS-GRD) at: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri/workshop.htm>
- We distributed copies of *Recommendations and Guidelines for Managing Caves on Protected Lands*, a joint publication of the Institute and the Karst Waters Institute, to the NPS, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cave and karst programs for use by their management personnel.
- RS researched copyright /public domain issues for future NCKRI/partner efforts/publications.
- LH and PB proposed a co-authored paper for a GSA Special Publication on karst. They and RS have also worked on developing a proposal for a Special Topics session on caves and karst at the next GSA national convention.
- RS continues to work on issues related to developing a logo for the Institute.

PLANS: Anticipated activities for the near future include:

- The Institute hopes to complete writing a draft business/operations plan by the end of the year. This plan will include a proposal for how the Institute will be jointly administered and how the transition might be accomplished.
- NMT will interview and hopes to hire a Chief Scientist for the Institute this fall.
- The City and Institute Director will continue regular meetings with the building design firm.
- The Institute staff will prepare an annual (or bi-annual) report.

NCKRI STAFF:

LH – Louise Hose, National Park Service

RS – Roger Scott, National Park Service

LL – Lewis Land, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR)

PB – Penelope Boston, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology